(d) whether the Government propose to re-open its repair shop in its existing show room in the capital and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) HMT 's authorised service agents in Delhi and elsewhere in the country are appointed as per Company's norms in terms of facility and equipment available for repairing. Also HMT has a fixed standard schedule of charges for different repair jobs.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at (a) above

Funds for Import of Fertilizers

3642. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated Rs. 2,000 crores ($ 800 million) in hard currency for immediate purchase of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons there for;

(c) how these fertilisers will be priced, distributed and sold to the farmers; and

(d) the steps taken to step up production of fertilizers in the county - both in the public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Foreign exchange is required to finance the import of fertiliser in which we are not fully self-sufficient.

(c) The maximum price of fertiliser per tonne is fixed by Government and the consumer price of fertiliser is uniform throughout the country. The fluctuation in the price of imported fertiliser is absorbed by Government and this has no bearing on the price paid by the farmer. The fertiliser is distributed in the country through the network of dealers both under the cooperative and public sector.

(d) The Eighth-Five Year Plan envisages the setting up of new units and also expansion of certain existing units. The modernisation, rehabilitation and retrofitting of some of the existing plants are also being considered in the interest of increas in the production.

Transport Subsidy to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3643. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the claims of transport subsidy from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are lying pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which these claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Union Territory Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has submitted two claims amounting to Rs. 2,79,15, 674/- under the Transport Subsidy Scheme. The eligible claims will be paid when funds become available.

Industrial Growth Centres In Karnataka

3644. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial growth centres allotted to Karnataka and their locations thereof?

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any industrial growth centre in Belgaum also;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up industrial growth centre at block level in the backward areas of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the growth centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (f). Under the Growth Centre Scheme, Karnataka has been allotted three growth centre namely; Dharwad, Hassan and Raichur, Selection of sites for growth centres is done on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments. The State Government proposals did not include Belgaum. The project reports for the 3 growth centres of Karnataka have already been approved and a sum of Rs. 2 crores each has been released towards Central assistance.

There is no proposal to set up industrial growth centres at block level.

Small Scale Plastic Manufacturers Association

3645. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various small scale plastic manufacturers associations have urged the Union Government for rationalising the prohibitive price of plastic raw materials and reduction in sales tax on them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b): Various plastics manufacturers associations have represented for rationalisation of prices of plastic raw materials.

(c) An exercise has already been done by restructuring custom & excise duties on various plastic materials and their intermediates in the budget proposals.

Modern Processed Food Plant In Karnataka

3646. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Liption India Limited is setting up a modern processed food plant in Dharwad in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have granted permission to set up this plant;

(c) the main features of the proposed plant; and

(d) the time by which this plant is likely to be set up and its annual production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). No such proposal from Liption India Limited for setting up of modern processed food plant in Dharwad has been received during 1988 to 1992 (upto 29.2.92). However, the above item is delicensed